

Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI  
RECORD NUMBER : 124-90143-10306  
  
RECORD SERIES : HQ  
  
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 100-370750-NR

Released under the John  
F. Kennedy  
Assassination Records  
Collection Act of 1992  
(44 USC 2107 Note).  
Case#:NW 54460 Date:  
10-04-2017

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI  
FROM : NY  
TO : HQ

TITLE :

DATE : 01/06/1950  
PAGES : 6

SUBJECTS :

JOHN HOWARD LAWSON

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT  
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified  
RESTRICTIONS : 4  
CURRENT STATUS : Redact  
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 10/09/1998

OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE

COMMENTS : LET

New York 7, New York

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January 6, 1950

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Director, FBI

Re: **COMPIC**  
**INTERNAL SECURITY - C**  
Bureau File 100-13874

Classified by *26 bpa/ky*  
Declassify on: OADR

Classified by *9145 JB/ogf*  
Declassify on: OADR

Date: 3/1/50

DECLASSIFIED BY *5668 SLI/mde*  
ON *6-26-95* (JFK)

Reference is made to Los Angeles letter dated November 10, 1949, and also Detroit letter dated November 23, 1949, in the above-captioned matter.

JOHN HOWARD LAWSON and his wife arrived at Grand Central Station, New York City, at 6:40 A.M. on October 26, 1949. They were met by their son and daughter-in-law and immediately proceeded to the apartment of JAN STERLING at 404 West 25th Street, New York City.

It will be noted that the indices of the New York Office reflect that JAN STERLING is a sponsor for PEOPLES SONGS, INC., which was cited as a Communist front by the California Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, 1948, Page 392.

The "Daily Worker" for October 24, 1949, page five, column one, carried an article to the effect that LAWSON, whose conviction for contempt of the House Un-American Activities Committee is now on appeal to the United States Supreme Court, was flying from Hollywood to speak the following Thursday at a "defense of freedom" meeting at the St. Nicholas Arena. The article stated that the announcement came from the New York Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions. It pointed out that the meeting, which would feature thirty leading American intellectuals, had been called to consider the significance of the conviction of the eleven Communists and the contempt citation of their counsel in relation to the traditional American rights of free speech, liberty, and human dignity.

cc: Boston  
Los Angeles  
Philadelphia

GJS:MC  
100-50870

100-370750-✓  
*100-24479-✓*  
NOT RECORDED  
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INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 100-13874-2711

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Letter to Director  
NY 100-50370

Confidential Informant ND-304, attended a mass meeting protesting the conviction of the eleven Communist leaders at the St. Nicholas Arena, New York City, on October 27, 1949. The informant advised that approximately fifteen hundred persons were in attendance and that the meeting was held under the auspices of the New York State Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions. The informant advised that the Chairman of the meeting was a party whose name he did not clearly ascertain, but to the best of his knowledge he believed it was RICHARD G. BOYER. BOYER, G. JOHN ROGGE, Dr. W. E. B. DuBOIS, HOWARD EAST, YIP HARBURG, CLIFFORD ODESS, Father CLARENCE DUFFY, JEFFREY CROCKETT, HARRY SACHER, JOHN HOWARD LAWSON, and Reverend JOHN DARR were the speakers at the event, and the principal speaker, according to Confidential Informant ND-304, was JOHN HOWARD LAWSON.

LAWSON said, "Some two years ago we (the Hollywood Ten) warned the American people about the conspiracy against their freedom. In Foley Square we witnessed the same scene . . . police and stool pigeons. We saw in Washington at the so-called trial of the 'Hollywood Ten' exactly the same thing. A shocking act took place at Foley Square. They are out to outlaw a philosophy and a thought. We must fight against this conspiracy with everything we've got."

LAWSON urged those present to read DALTON TRUMBO'S pamphlet, "The Time of the Toad", from which LAWSON quoted EMILE ZOLA'S article by the same name. He then said, "At Foley Square the issue was not free speech alone. The actual issue is peace or war. True patriotism is to protect the country from the men in Washington and Wall Street, who are out to rule the world."

LAWSON said, "It is the duty of men of culture to fight the conspiracy to destroy the freedom of the American people." He underlined that in the Soviet Union and countries of "other peoples democracies" they have real democracy and that the forces of progress there and in the rest of the world can win the fight for peace.

Confidential Informant ID-415 attended a meeting of approximately 150 persons at the Hotel Sutton in New York City at 8:30 P.M. on that date. This meeting was also sponsored by the New York Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions. According to the informant, there were three speakers and the theme of their speeches concerned the prosecution of the "Hollywood Ten". JOHN HOWARD LAWSON was the principal speaker, and he said that there is collaboration in Hollywood that never existed before. He added that Wall Street is not responsible for the production of pictures which comply with their purpose of "blood and destruction" and that progressive pictures are rarely made but when they are the large chain theaters refuse to accept them. (X)(u)

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LAWSON at one point said that the prosecution of the "Hollywood Ten" is a direct attack against all screen actors and writers who are not afraid to speak the truth. (S)(u)

LAWSON, according to the informant, made the observation that one writer in Moscow has charged that in America the movie industry is not making a single picture which speaks of peace. He added that the charge of this Russian writer is true, and noted that in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics there is a picture being shown throughout the land which is an appeal for peace. He concluded that, while Russia wants peace, Wall Street and the American monopolists want war. He appealed to the organization as a strong progressive movement in the Arts, Sciences and Professions which would be willing to help and cooperate with any other progressive organization. (S)(u)

Confidential Informant NY-310 advised that JOHN HOWARD LAWSON told RICHARD KILFORD of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship on November 19, 1949, that he was leaving the apartment of JAN STERLING and was moving into an apartment at 112 East 30th Street on November 19, 1949. (S)(u)

During the course of a telephone call made under pretext to the National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions, New York City, it was learned from DOROTHY LANGSTON that JOHN HOWARD LAWSON left New York City on November 20, 1949, for Boston, Massachusetts, to address meetings in the Greater Boston area.

The Boston Office was advised of the foregoing information by teletype on November 20, 1949, and was requested to cover LAWSON'S activities while he was in that city.

During the course of the pretext telephone call, DOROTHY LANGSTON advised that on November 23, 1949, an office had been set up at the Hotel Iroquois, New York City, for the "Hollywood Ten". It will be noted that the Hotel Iroquois is the headquarters for the National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions in New York City. DOROTHY LANGSTON advised that she is the Eastern Regional Director of the "Hollywood Ten", and further stated that she anticipated that a conference would be held in New York City on January 7, 1950, to coincide with a similar conference to be held in Los Angeles, California, on the same date in support of the "Hollywood Ten".

On December 14, 1949, DOROTHY LANGSTON advised, when contacted under pretext, that the conference, which was to be held on January 7, 1950, would be held in abeyance perhaps until March of 1950.

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While in conversation with Miss LANGSTON, she advised that JOHN HOWARD LAWSON would visit Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on November 29, 1949, to address student groups in connection with the defense of the "Hollywood Ten".

On November 28, 1949, the Philadelphia Office was advised by teletype of the foregoing information, and was requested to cover LAWSON'S activities while he was in that city.

Confidential Informant ND-490 reported that he attended the "Rally for Peace" sponsored by the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship at Madison Square Garden on December 5, 1949. The informant stated that the purpose of the rally was for the outlawing of the atom bomb, the appeal for peace throughout the world, and urging more friendly relations with Russia. The principal speakers were CHARLES P. HOWARD, Reverend WILLIAM HOWARD MELISH, MURIEL DEAFER, RICHARD MONFORD, Dr. JOHN A. KINGSBURY, ex-Governor ALBERT BENSON of Minnesota, and JOHN HOWARD LAWSON.

LAWSON, in his speech, said that the assembly was gathered for the purpose of speaking of something very simple, that being friendship. He stated that the people of the United States believed in friendship, but added that today the American spirit is being violated, the traditions violated, and that the American spirit is shamed by powerful interests which control the Government and dictate United States foreign policy. LAWSON said that these interests are served by men who wear the garments of patriotism, who speak the language of morality, justice, and truth. He pointed out that the representatives in Washington and in the United Nations talk of peace, but it is evident to any rational observer that their intentions are not peaceful but are plotting and planning for war. He said that these men are not patriots, that their only loyalty is to the dollar, and their only country is the cartel. LAWSON went on to state that in serving the dollar and the cartel the individuals above referred to are pursuing a policy of national disaster. He said that they are able to continue in power because they keep the truth from being known and that their policies are concealed behind a curtain of propaganda, confusion, disorganization, and outright lies. He told the assembly that the American people will rise up in their wrath if they know what is actually being planned today in Washington and Wall Street. He maintained that there was an un-American conspiracy in the United States today and said that this conspiracy was out to destroy the Bill of Rights so that no voice could be raised to expose the plans of the varmokers. He said that the conspiracy has gone far in undermining the Constitution and crushing our traditional liberties. LAWSON pointed out that thousands of Americans in

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ND-490-10307